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Clinton calls for 'strong' UN action on Iraq

US President Bill Clinton, in an interview broadcast yesterday, called on the UN to take "very strong and unambiguous action" to force Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to comply with UN weapons inspections.

In an interview with NBC's Meet the Press, taped on Saturday after Clinton met his top foreign policy advisers, he also said any attempt by Iraq to attack US spy planes would not be tolerated.

The U-2 planes are scheduled to resume flights over Iraq today.

"I expect the United Nations to take very strong and unambiguous action to make it perfectly clear he has to comply," Clinton said, referring to Saddam. "If he doesn't, then the world community will have to take some action."

The Sunday Times reported, meanwhile, that Saddam's latest weapon is an apparently innocuous single-engine crop duster converted into a remote-controlled drone, capable of discharging enough anthrax bacteria to kill thousands of people.

Saddam yesterday his country had to choose between "a life with dignity" or "confrontation" in its row with the UN over arms inspections.

"Iraq has been put in a situation in which it has to choose between a life with dignity and honor, or confrontation of all possibilities," Saddam said in remarks carried by the official Iraqi News Agency, INA. "Our decision is defensive and not an attack on America. We have either to sacrifice or become slaves."

Asked if a military strike against Iraq is necessary, Clinton said, "I don't want to rule anything in or out. I think... it's very important that the president maintain all options and signal none. And that's where I want to be. But I think that Saddam Hussein needs to understand that this is a serious business and this is not just the president of the United States."

An attack by Iraq on the spy planes, Clinton said, "would be a big mistake. We will not tolerate [Saddam's] efforts to murder our pilots acting on behalf of the UN."

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, calling Saddam "a congenital liar," said it was important that he know that the consternation caused by his actions was international in nature and not solely a US reaction.

Nevertheless, the US will act alone, if necessary, she said.

Senate Majority leader Trent Lott said Congress will support strong military action, even if the US acts without the backing of the UN.

If Clinton were to order military action, "I think Congress would support him in a very bipartisan way," he said on Fox News yesterday.

Iraq may be seeking to provoke a US attack, or divide the international coalition backing the UN sanctions, Clinton said. He called on Arab nations, and UN Security Council members Russia and France, to support the UN and present a united front to Saddam.

Last Tuesday, the UN suspended U-2 flights while a diplomatic delegation, which left Baghdad on Friday without achieving a breakthrough, was in the country.

The UN Security Council is to meet today to discuss the visit by Secretary-General Kofi Annan's special mission.



Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I (center), assisted by Metropolitan Timothy (right) and a Greek Orthodox priest, makes the sign of the cross on Mary's Rock yesterday. (AP)

Rock on which Virgin Mary rested found near Bethlehem

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

A rock on which the Virgin Mary is believed to have rested while on her way to give birth to Jesus has been uncovered by archeologists just off the Jerusalem-Bethlehem road.

Termed by archeologists one of the major Christian sites ever excavated in the country, the site is expected to become a prime attraction for Christian pilgrims. It is certain to figure prominently in the 2000 festivities, when masses of Christian visitors are anticipated from around the world.

The rock, measuring about two by four meters, was the centerpiece of an enormous octagonal Byzantine church constructed in the fifth century. The church and adjacent monastery were destroyed in unknown circumstances in the eighth century, after the Arab conquest.

Their remains were subsequently covered over and the precise location forgotten. Scholars knew, however, from ancient

documents of the church's existence and of the holy rock known as *kathisma* - the seat, in Greek.

The rock is not mentioned in the New Testament, but it is known from Christian documents dating from as early as the fourth century. Mary and her husband, Joseph, were traveling from Nazareth to Bethlehem, Joseph's birthplace, to participate in a census. Tradition holds that the pregnant Mary rested on the large flat rock just off the ancient Jerusalem-Bethlehem road.

Plans to widen the present road led archeologists to carry out an emergency dig and discover the stone and the surrounding church remains, including mosaic floors. The road widening plans were duly altered.

At a press conference at the site yesterday, Antiquities Authority archeologists Rina Avner and Yuval Baruch, who uncovered the site, noted that the rock was slightly higher than

the floor of the church around it and that it was exactly at the center of the structure, which measured 43 by 52 meters. It was one of the earliest and largest churches dedicated to Mary.

Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem Diodoros I, who visited the site yesterday, congratulated the authority on the discovery and said that his church would offer the authority full cooperation in making it accessible to visitors. "This great discovery has historical, religious, and ethnic significance," he said.

The rock lies at the edge of an olive grove, on land owned by the Greek Patriarchate, several hundred meters south of Mar Elias. The site was initially discovered in 1992, when a small emergency dig was carried out in connection with the road-widening plans. Its full dimensions were not exposed, however, until a contractor at the nearby Har Homa development site illegally laid a water pipe through the area a few months ago.

Bezeq gave false price data

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

After a four-month investigation, the Antitrust Authority yesterday formally accused Bezeq International's senior executives of employing unfair business practices designed to give the company an advantage as the market geared up for competition in overseas phone calls.

Antitrust Authority director-general David Tadmor gave his findings to Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, who must decide whether or not to prosecute the involved parties.

Bezeq International said it will appeal the decision. In its statement, the authority said that from the end of 1996 until the international call market opened to competition in July, Bezeq International's CEO and the board of directors implemented "foggy" and

"confusing" pricing policies.

According to documents the authority seized, the company's directives explicitly recommended "applying confusing tariff policies."

The company's senior executives told the board of directors, "We'll confuse the public and cause them to think that Bezeq International is already cheap," the authority said.

After conducting the investigation, Tadmor said the company used "vague policies" to "exploit the consumer."

In May 1995, the Antitrust Authority declared Bezeq International a monopoly. The Communications Ministry then decided to open the international telephone call market to competition. In July, Golden Lines and Barak entered the market.

In attempt to defuse Left-Right tension:

PM praises Labor at Likud caucus

By HERB KENON

What is expected to be an exceptionally contentious Likud convention opened in Jerusalem last night amid a burst of harmony and good feeling, with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu musing all his oratorical skills to acknowledge the Labor movement for its historic achievements and to call for national unity.

Netanyahu danced around the primaries issue that has caused a rift between the party's central committee members and its leadership, and instead used his 45-minute speech to showcase what he said were the achievements of his government. He mentioned the primaries only once, and that with a dismissive: "We can't get over that? Of course we can."

Netanyahu opened his speech at Jerusalem's International Convention Center by recalling the

assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, and asked for a moment of silence. A few people clapped at the request, and cries of "quiet" and "shhh" punctuated its first few seconds. Soon afterward Netanyahu called

PM in need of magic trick, Page 2

for unity. "From this podium I call on the leaders of the opposition to calm things down, to work to unify the nation," he said to sustained applause. "The time has come to stop blaming one another; the time has come to stop it. I want to remind everyone, from this forum, that the Labor movement and the other movements of the Left have had many achievements in building the state and enhancing its security.

Yes, we have disagreements on how to reach the goal, but the goal is the same for all of us: peace, security, and prosperity for this nation.

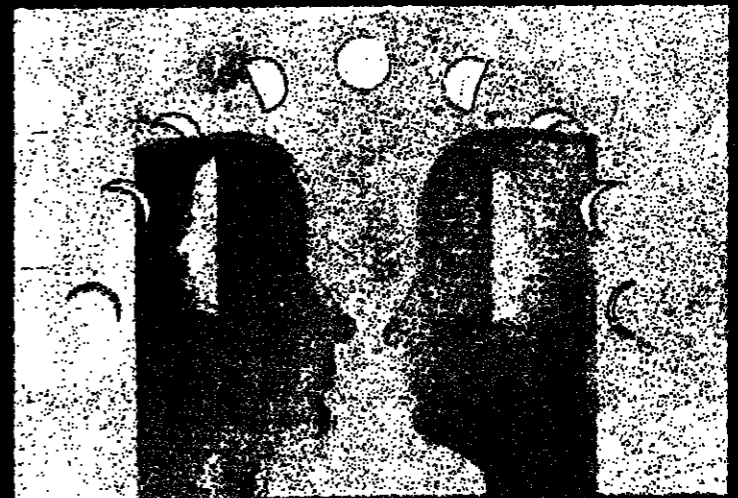
"During these days we need to extend hands to one another," Netanyahu continued. "And someone apparently has to extend his hand first, so I am doing it here tonight. I am extending a hand of peace and conciliation to all parts of this nation."

With these words the hall burst into wild applause and chants of "Bibi, Bibi, Bibi."

Having said that, Netanyahu enumerated why the Likud won the election 17 months ago. "We promised then that we would halt the withdrawal to the 1967 lines, and we did that. We promised that we would stop the division of Jerusalem, and we did that."

See PRAISE, Page 2

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ANALYSIS
By Sarah Hoag

Hospitals back on strike today

By JUDY SIEGEL

Hundreds of elective operations and thousands of visits to outpatient clinics and diagnostic institutes will be cancelled today due to a nationwide strike of public hospitals - general, geriatric and psychiatric. Only Laniado in Netanya will be unaffected. The sanctions, which will set a reduced Shabbat schedule, are part of a series of protests launched in September by the Israel Medical Association, which demands that the Treasury carry out its signed commitment to finance 360 additional doctors' job slots to alleviate overcrowding by hospital physicians. An identical strike was held last Wednesday. In addition to today's one-day strike, the physicians are continuing their new policy of discharging patients only when fully recovered, instead of sending them home prematurely. Hospitals that serve a larger or more elderly population, such as Kaplan, Assaf Harofeh, Soroka, and Wolfson are already working at 160 percent capacity, with many patients lying in the corridors. No contacts were made over the weekend between the IMA and the Finance and Health ministries. IMA chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar accused Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman of "not doing anything" to ease the congestion in the wards or to carry out his ministry's agreement, signed in March, to finance additional doctors' slots. In fact, he said, the hospitals were told to finance the extra manpower from their own funds, which they don't have. "If the Treasury has any public responsibility, I suggest that it allocate the funding... and stop turning a blind eye to the situation."

Kissinger: It's time for final status talks

THOMAS O'DWYER

Former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger said yesterday it is now time to tackle "a number of big issues" in the Middle East peace process - including the fact that a Palestinian state is inevitable. Since universal recognition of that state is inevitable, "the question becomes what are its borders," Kissinger said, in a lecture to a packed auditorium in Tel Aviv's Habimah Theater. He said that although he had been the first to advocate the step-by-step process to the Arabs and Israelis, now he believes it is time for bigger steps, or for a negotiated final settlement. "But the first, the essential, requirement for peace is knowing where you want to go," Kissinger said. "If you do not know the destination, you cannot get there and each step, each concession, becomes harder." Kissinger had been invited by the Yitzhak Rabin Center to deliver the first Rabin Lecture, launching a program of activities to honor the memory of the late prime minister, said Anita Shapira, chairman of the center. His subject was "United States and Middle Eastern Policy in a Changing Global Arena." Nobel Peace laureate Kissinger, who was secretary of state under presidents Nixon and Ford, became known as the father of shuttle diplomacy when he negotiated the cease-fire agreements between Israel, Egypt and Syria following the Yom Kippur War. Kissinger said the current period of international quiet will not continue and, when it ends, it will not be easy to mobilize help for the Middle East from the United States. "Even now in America there is isolationism on the Left, unilateralism on the Right. Thirty percent of the country has never been outside it, news reports from the outside world are incomprehensible to them. I have argued ever since prime minister Begin agreed to the concept of autonomy that a Palestinian state was inevitable. Once the concept of autonomy had been granted, nothing would prevent the outside world from elevating the status of that autonomous unit. I told Begin on the day after Camp David, and have said it ever since, that the key question is what borders will that unit have. These two issues must be faced - the borders, and in return, the recognition of a Palestinian state cannot be prevented, whatever Israel thinks. Kissinger said "it is clear" Israel cannot return to the 1967 borders, "so without tying myself to any particular line, I think something like the Allon Plan will be the outcome. There are indeed a host of other issues - precise limitations for the Palestinian unit's arms; it cannot possibly be a constant source of worry. But we must be clear about the destination, and above all agree with the US that that is the destination. This is the big decision that has to be made. One cannot possibly hope that there is a way around it."



Former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger delivers the Yitzhak Rabin Center's first Rabin Lecture in Tel Aviv's Habimah Theater yesterday. (Dan Osovsky/Israel)

A tale of two converts

By DAN IZENBERG

According to Rabbi Yisrael Rosen, head of the Chief Rabbinate's Conversion Authority, 80 percent of the converts from the former Soviet Union are women. Of the 26 students in Russian activist Dina Yablonsky's Jerusalem conversion class several months ago, 18 were women - most of them young, some already married, others hoping to marry soon. At least two were being threatened with deportation because the Interior Ministry had decided that despite the documentation that they had presented, they weren't Jewish, and had no other legal right to be here. Almost all the women wore long skirts and long-sleeved shirts to class. Lena enrolled by mail in a kibbutz conversion class, but when they got here, they found they had not been registered. EACH ENDED up going her own way. Yana ended up in Jerusalem, where she joined Yablonsky's conversion class. Lena, who moved to Bat Yam and developed a circle of secular friends, said she would convert some day but is in no hurry to do so. Yana, soft-spoken and delicate-looking, seems to have no qualms about an Orthodox conversion. "I don't see myself as being extremely Orthodox, but as a woman who observes the halachic commandments," she said. "It's hard for me to go to synagogue or read the prayer book all the time. I have to get used to it. But I observe the Shabbat and holidays and the rules of kashrut. I have to more or less turn myself inside out and that takes time." Whatever difficulties of adjustment she has encountered, Yana sounds as if she would not have it any other way. "There is some sort of order in religious life - that is, in Jewish religious life - and I think it's good to live that way. Kashrut is healthy and there is something good about a faith in which you can teach your children that there is someone or something watching over you." She was not attracted to more liberal forms of religion. For her, Orthodox Judaism is real Judaism. "The Reform way is neither here nor there," she said. "If you do something, do it all the way." DR. ZE'EV FUKO, 42, immigrated from Moscow in 1991 and lives in Ma'aleh Adumim. He is a doctor at Beilinson Hospital. Fuko is also the son of a Jewish father and non-Jewish mother. His wife is Russian. Like many other Jewish families in Russia, Fuko says the only Jewish tradition his parents observed during his childhood was serving matza - together with bread - on Pesach. Nevertheless, he felt Jewish. "Every person feels inside that he belongs to a group," Fuko said. "I can't explain exactly why. Maybe it was Zionism. I remember that when I was 13, during the Six Day War, we would listen closely to the Voice of Israel even though it was hard to hear because it was jammed." Fuko's friends were Jewish. They would congregate outside the Great Synagogue on holidays. "There was a group of us. We would walk around and talk about Jewish matters, although we weren't like [Prisoners of Zion Natan] Sharanov or [Yosef] Begun. I can't explain exactly why we cared, but it was like that from childhood." See CONVERTS, Page 4

Absorbing the non-Jews: Third in a four-part series

One of the students was 21-year-old Yana, who immigrated five years ago from a remote Russian town near the Mongolian border. She was enrolled in the Hebrew University's preparatory course and hoped to become an industrial designer. Yana's father is Jewish and her mother is not, but it was actually her mother who was prouder of the Jewish connection. "She even looked Jewish and was not promoted at work because people thought she was," said Yana. "My mother was the Zionist and she was the one who told me about my father's roots." None of Yana's friends were Jews and, as a child, she did not feel any different from them. But as she heard her mother's stories, she began to develop strong feelings about her origins. "When I studied history and we came to the history of the Jews, I felt it deep in my heart." She was also fascinated by what she regarded as the special power of the Jews. "I wanted to understand why they were always the focus of so much attention," she said. Before the rise of the Soviet Union's last leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, Jews in Yana's town observed religious customs at home, in private. But after perestroika, the Jewish community opened a Sunday school and started observing holidays in public. Meanwhile, the Jewish Agency began to offer seminars on Israel. At 16, Yana decided to immigrate - on her own accompanied only by a schoolmate, Lena. She said the Israeli representative in Novosibirsk checked her documents and told her she was eligible to immigrate according to the Law of Return, but that she would not be considered Jewish here. Before coming, Yana and

PALESTINIAN PRESS REVIEW

Support for Iraq

Al-Ayyam reports that six Palestinian factions, including Fatah, sent a letter to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein denouncing any American aggression against Iraq. They praised the steadfastness of the leadership and people of Iraq, who are facing a possible American attack, and demanded the removal of the blockade of Iraq. The paper also reports that the national and Islamic forces in Gaza have called for the removal of the blockade from the sister Iraq. Al-Quds quotes Hamas leader Abdel Azziz Rantisi as joining the call to Islamic nations to stand by Iraq and prevent an attack by the US.

The Hamas strategy

An article in Al-Bilad says that 10 years after the establishment of Hamas, the circumstances that brought about its creation have changed. The recent announcement by the leader of Hamas of his movement's willingness to have a truce with Israel is an indirect announcement that Hamas is willing to return to the strategy of the mother-movement, the Moslem Brotherhood, which postpones the liberation of all of Palestine until after the banner of Islam wins in the lands of Islam. The writer calls on supporters of Hamas to return to the goals of the movement. "The people of Islam who joined Hamas in order to defeat Israeli aggression are required today to deepen their participation in the battle to defeat the aggression and exploitation out of our soils, our history, our present, and our future... to fight a holy war in order to build in Palestine a homeland to Islam."

School violence

According to a report in Al-Hayat al-Jadida, four pupils at Gaza's Khalil al-Wazir High School recently threatened their teachers with weapons and cursed them. The Palestinian Police sent in large forces headed by chief Ghazi Jabali, and after many hours and with the help of several members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, the armed pupils surrendered and were removed from the place.

Kirk Douglas

Under the title "A racist American actor finances settlement in Jerusalem," Al-Hayat al-Jadida writes that Kirk Douglas "has joined the American owner of gambling clubs, Irving Moskowitz, in financing settlements in the area of occupied Jerusalem. The Israeli press reported that Douglas, who is known for his racist and antisemitic positions against Arabs and Moslems, gave a large contribution to an institute for Talmud study."

Implementing Oslo

Al-Ayyam columnist Hasan Batal refers to Dennis Ross as "the dangerous Jew" whom the Palestinian negotiators view as a mediator, coordinator, and delegate. They hold negotiations with the American State Department, in which the person in charge of the Middle East portfolio is "the Jew" Martin Indyk and Madeleine Albright, in charge of guiding US policy, who discovered she is half Jewish. The Palestinians treat President Bill Clinton with the highest respect, continues Batal, though he is considered one of the American presidents most supportive of Israel. Translation of articles courtesy of The Palestinian Media Review, a non-profit Israeli organization that monitors and translates Palestinian media.

Jerusalem

Al-Hayat al-Jadida reports on a symposium on "Jerusalem Day" held last week. At the conference, Gaza Mayor Awn Shawa warned mayors of cities throughout the world of the danger of participating in a conference next month organized by the Jerusalem City Council to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel. Shawa said this is an attempt by "the mayor of West Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert, to perpetuate the so-called Israeli sovereignty in both parts of Jerusalem."

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Beilin launches movement for Lebanon withdrawal

By MICHAL YUDELMAN
A new movement chaired by MK Yossi Beilin plans to conduct an ongoing public and political campaign to get the IDF out of Lebanon, even without a peace settlement with Syria and Lebanon.

The Movement for Leaving Lebanon Peacefully, which was launched in Tel Aviv yesterday, also includes MKs Haim Ramon, Nissim Zvilli, Yona Yahav and Ya'el Dayan (Labor), Dedi Zucker and Naorim Hazan (Meretz), Zvi Weinberg (Yisrael Ba'aliya), representatives of the Four Mothers group and several public figures and artists.

"Blood is being spilt in Lebanon unnecessarily, we come to stop this bloodshed and the continuing foolishness in Lebanon, which was born in sin and continued in sin," Beilin said at the press conference.

Beilin said there is no political or ideological basis for staying in Lebanon, noting that many IDF generals and reserve generals agree it is in Israel's national interest to withdraw, even without a peace agreement with Syria or Lebanon.

Beilin said the movement offers a peaceful way of getting out of Lebanon, with alternative security arrangements and adequate arrangements for the South Lebanese Army.

"With all due respect to Syrian President Assad, rantings of Hizbullah heads or SLA threats, those are not good enough reasons to stay there. This movement will make sure the issue does not drop from the agenda, even on days when there are no casualties in Lebanon, and exert pressure on the decision makers to get out of Lebanon," he said.

He said that during the Rabin memorial rally on Saturday night, more than 2,500 new members signed up to join the movement.

Ronit Agassi, of the Four Mothers group, said the mothers' movement "was formed out of the terrible feeling our children's blood is being spilt, they are being

used as cannon fodder and there is no solution in sight. "The deep despair from the cynicism, indifference and mental fixation of the government drove us into the streets as a protest group. Beilin's movement provides the political connection to the parliamentary corridors which we lacked."

She added "as parents, we cannot back our children's serving in Lebanon and tell them they're doing the right thing."

Zvilli urged the public to stop regarding Israel's stay in Lebanon as "a divine decree" about which nothing can be done.

"Now, when the circumstances of the war in Lebanon are coming to light [with the verdict of the Sharon vs. Ha'aretz trial], it's intolerable having to keep our soldiers stuck there, knowing the IDF entered Lebanon without a cabinet decision and perhaps without the knowledge of many ministers."

The political leaders must be forced to open their mind to alternatives, he said, "because in the present situation no one can win. The only way out of Lebanon is on stretchers, and we don't want any more soldiers leaving that way."

Labor MK Ephraim Sneh, meanwhile, asked party chairman Ehud Barak to issue a statement making it clear that Labor is not affiliated with the new movement.

Sneh, who, like Barak, objects strongly to a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon, noted that as soon as Israel quits Lebanon, Hizbullah will take over not only south Lebanon but the entire state. A unilateral withdrawal will also make it much easier for the Hizbullah to target Israeli towns, he said.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's media advisor Avi Benayahu said the IDF's activities in south Lebanon constitute a security issue and not a political one. Benayahu added all military and security service assessments indicate that in the absence of an agreement ensuring the security of the northern communities, it would not be right to withdraw unilaterally from Lebanon.

Government, Holy See to sign first pact since normalizing ties

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Israel and the Holy See are to sign an agreement today on the legal status of Roman Catholic institutions in Israel, an act which a Foreign Ministry official described as the first public sign of normalization between the two since the estab-

lishment of diplomatic relations in June 1994. However, the signing comes a full year and a half after the joint subcommittee, which was set up in order to bring about an agreement on the issue, actually reached its conclusions.

The failure of the government to follow up the agreement with the signing ceremony was interpreted by some Roman Catholic sources as a lack of enthusiasm by the Israelis to continue the process of normalization, with the Roman Catholic Church.

But Ariel Kennet, director of the Foreign Ministry department for the churches, yesterday rejected this interpretation. He said that interpretation came from certain circles which had an interest in casting a negative light on relations between Israel and the Roman Catholic Church. He said the main source of the delay was the change in government. "The new government had to learn the material," Kennet said. "It took time for them to deal with it."

Seeking reconciliation on anniversary of Rabin slaying:

Gesher group heralds new religious-secular dialogue

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER
Hundreds of pupils from religious and secular high schools crowded into a giant tent yesterday, kicking off a "Day of Dialogue" organized by the Gesher organization to mark the anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination.



Meretz MK Dedi Zucker (seated, center), shakes hands with Education Minister Zevulun Hammer (National Religious Party) as Gesher organization chairman Dr. Danny Tropper (right) and high school pupils look on, at yesterday's mass dialogue between religious and secular pupils in Tel Aviv. (Israel Suez)

The tent in the courtyard of the Tel Aviv Museum was filled with round tables, each seating some 10 high school seniors and a qualified facilitator from Gesher, an organization that promotes understanding between religious and secular. Each group had been carefully balanced between girls and boys, and religious and secular.

Over soft drinks and sandwiches, the teenagers discussed values, viewpoints and opinions - both those they shared and those on which they strongly disagreed. The facilitators provoked the discussion by exploring stereotypes the groups have of one another, raising issues of coexistence such as the Rehov Bar-Ilan controversy and yeshiva students' exemptions from army service, and posing provocative questions such as, "Which identity is more

important to you, that of a Jew or that of an Israeli?"

One mentioned the political nature of the rally in Rabin's memory held on Saturday night and asked the pupils, "Do you think that there is one value or issue that we could all attend a rally in support of?"

"Zionism?" ventured a young man in response. "Perhaps," the facilitator answered. "But what about the settlers? They think that they are expressing their Zionism by settling the Land of Israel and other people feel they are hurting Zionism by doing what they are doing."

Inevitably, much of the discussion focused on the Rabin murder and its aftermath. "I'm sick and tired of being blamed for this," said a young woman named Rachel. "Rabin was my prime minister, too. I was hurt by his killing, too. I don't understand why, just because I am religious, I am constantly expected to apologize and ask forgiveness for his assassination."

The massive dialogue was a high-profile version of the discussions facilitated by Gesher on a regular basis across the country. "All year, we concentrate on individuals, with our seminars

within individual schools and communities," said Ilan Gealdor, who runs the Gesher Center in Jerusalem. "Today, Gesher decided to combine the personal with the public, by inviting individuals from all over Israel from various schools to meet with one another."

He said that following the Rabin assassination "there was a huge increase in demand for our seminars, as people were beginning to wake up to the problem."

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer praised the effort, telling the pupils yesterday that "we have to do everything we can to avoid anything like the Rabin assassination happening again. And the most important thing we can do is to talk."

He said that religious and secular "do not have to agree on everything, but they do have to learn to live here together peacefully, even without agreement."

A recent survey commissioned by Gesher found that the rift between religious and secular was perceived to be the most pressing problem in Israeli society. The survey, conducted by Modi'in Ezrahi, found that 54 percent of those polled cited the religious-secular conflict as most bitter controversy in Israel. Twenty percent said the biggest conflict was between the Left and Right, 9% between Ashkenazim and Sephardim, and 3% said the biggest gap was between rich and poor.

Aryeh Dean Cohen adds: Gesher is inviting the public to sign a petition calling for tolerance between religious and secular, which can be signed via the Internet.

"We hope every Israeli and every Jew, wherever they are, will do something to reduce the polarization in the people, and to widen the dialogue between observant and secular, not as a project but as a way of life," said Gesher chairman Dr. Danny Tropper. Gesher's web site is at <http://www.gesher.co.il>

Ethiopian immigrant group alarmed by high dropout rate

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN
Charges and countercharges were exchanged yesterday between the Israel Association for Ethiopian Jews and the Education Ministry after the association published statistics indicating an alarming rise in the number of Ethiopian youngsters who have dropped out of school and are involved in criminal activity.

According to the association, the number of 12-15 year old Ethiopians engaged in criminal activity, based on what it said were police reports, is up some 300 percent in the period between 1994 and early 1997.

Association officials also noted that only 12.5% of Ethiopians eligible to take the matriculation exams received a matriculation certificate, significantly lower than the 38% national average.

However, Yohanan Ben-Ya'acov, head of the Education Ministry's Authority for Immigrant Absorption, said in a letter to the group that there were "inaccuracies" and mistakes in the report. He also noted there were "two major, significant deficiencies: He who can't also see the light and success and achievements has no right to show the darkness and failure! He who continues to spit into the well he drinks from does not deserve to draw water from that well."

Ben-Ya'acov's letter and sent a copy to Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, calling it "harsh, degrading and threatening."

"They prefer us to be silent," said Shula Mola, herself a member of the Ethiopian community and a project coordinator for the association.

Moshe Bahta, director of the United Ethiopian Jewish Organizations, said that while he disagreed with some of the association's tactics, he agreed that the problem of Ethiopian youngsters who had dropped out of any educational framework was a severe one.

"We need to find the resources to help these youngsters now, or risk having to invest considerably more to help them later," he said. Mola said that Education Ministry officials put the number of dropouts at 700, "but those figures have stayed the same for the past two years, which just doesn't make any sense."

She said the association puts the figure at more than 1,500 of the 15,000 pupils in grades 1-12 who should be in school.

An Education Ministry official said yesterday that the ministry provides significantly more resources for the Ethiopian immigrants than it does to other groups, and it could document the successes that have been achieved in aiding the Ethiopian community.

Community centers enlisted for project

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN and Haim

In dozens of community centers around the country yesterday, observant and secular youngsters held encounters as part of a "Day of Dialogue" marking the second anniversary of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

The meetings were initiated by the Community Centers Association and were part of discussion groups which featured rabbis, public figures, and others representing a wide range of political opinion.

Many community centers are planning ceremonies and other special commemoration events this week, to be attended by representatives of all members of the community.

Today there will be a bicycle race for youth from the Binyamin Community Center - which includes Ofra, Beit El, Psagot and others - along with youngsters from kibbutzim in the North. The two groups will then hold a discussion on the causes of the distance between observant and secular Israelis.

Dr. Dov Golberger, director-general of the Community Centers Association, said the association is taking a wide role in the commemorations, because they are one of the few public bodies not identified with any political group, making it easier for young people and adults to participate.

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Director and star Anthony Hopkins returns to his native country for this adaptation of Chekhov's 'Uncle Vanya.'

The Wales of 'August'

Movie Review

By ADINA HOFFMAN

Actor Anthony Hopkins makes his directing debut with *August*, yet another reworking of Anton Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*. This time the sleepy proceedings have been transplanted to the greenish-gold countryside of late 19th-century North Wales at the end of summer, and the story opened out by screenwriter Julian Mitchell to show us life beyond the genteel teatimes of the estate overseen by Ieuan (Hopkins) and his plain niece Sian (Rhian Morgan). Poor men with soft caps and sooty faces labor in a quarry just

over the hill, and in an early scene one of these miners is mortally wounded in a blast. Dr. Lloyd (Gawn Grainger), the local physician, has come to the estate to attend to the gout of Blathwain (Leslie Phillips), a stuffy old English professor and Ieuan's former brother-in-law who has recently arrived on the scene with his elegant young second wife, Helen (Kate Burton). But as soon as he hears word of the accident, the doctor rushes away to care for the dying man.

The idea, it would seem, is to give Chekhov's ur-Russian tale of the waning of the strength of the landed gentry a certain Celtic class-consciousness. And while one understands the filmmakers' desire to locate the tale more precisely in Wales, the intrusion of this bloody accident feels crude and immediately throws the delicate rhythms of the drama off balance. Aside from the fact that Hopkins and Mitchell are both Welsh and that most of the cast and crew have some connection to the place (the talented Morgan is a Welsh-language TV

star and Burton is the Swiss-born, American daughter of actor and Welshman Richard Burton), the film's location adds little to our sense of the characters or their actions.

The urge to translate *Vanya* to some other setting and social context is, of course, nothing new. The play has been recast numerous times and with extremely varied results: the last few years alone have brought both Michael Blake's *dreadful* Australian slapstick version, *Country Life*, and Louis Malle's sublimely unadorned *Vanya on 42nd Street*, set in the shabby brown glow of a Times Square theater slated for demolition. Ostensibly a filmed, plainclothes rehearsal of Andre Gregory's stage production, Malle's *Vanya* evolves not just as a fine rendition of the Chekhov play but also as a complex and subtly woven meditation on acting, provincialism, urbanity, morbidity and nostalgia for the "old ways" — whether of the Russian aristocracy or of Broadway in its heyday. (By far the best of all these versions, *Vanya on*

42nd Street was the only one of the three never released here commercially, though it is available on video at the Third Ear.) By comparison, the Welsh setting of *August* just seems random, and works primarily at a decorative level, to assure its quaintly pretty look. In many ways, the film's backdrop is indicative of Hopkins' limitations as a director: his take on the play is uninspired, even boring at times, and his tonal grasp is unsure. While his own performance as the *Vanya* character, the drunken,

ed in ceme

A winter of hot jazz

By HELEN KAYE

Dyed-in-the-wool jazzophiles in Israel can go from New Orleans to New York twice a month from this week to May and never leave the country.

performing for over 15 years. "The trombone seat will never be the same again," wrote a critic praising a gig that Lonzo did in Boston, and talked about a joyous, fat, round, earthy tone that had the primeval force "of the golden days of New Orleans jazz."

Besides, the New Yorkers all want to come to New Orleans because you can play here every day of the week and at all hours of the day.

Local quartet to rival the world's best

By MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

When Bronislaw Huberman recruited Central European musicians to leave their homeland and gather in Palestine to form the Palestine Philharmonic Orchestra, he could never have envisioned that by the end of the century, four young Israeli musicians would choose his name to inaugurate a string quartet.

in any case, is where we all started." All four were members of the JMC young musicians project and received AICF scholarships for many years.

There was a time when there were numerous first-rate chamber music ensembles in Israel which played regularly at home and abroad, the Tel Aviv Quartet and the Yuval Trio leading the pack. But within the past decade, chamber music ensembles have almost ceased to exist in Israel. There is a lot of chamber music in the land, but no real ensembles that play together as a group for an extended consecutive period of time.



Frederick Lonzo Jr. plays in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv this month.

"I sing every kind of style," he says, "and when I sing, I mix them all up. I have developed a vocal language of my own which is a mixture of jazz, classical and the music from Trinidad. My parents come from there, and they still sing in church choirs and with steel bands."

day, wherever I am, and listen to the aural environment. I'll do that in Tel Aviv too, and the sounds I'll hear will become part of the program. I do different voice-over techniques, and they're in there too. I guess you could say I explore sound."

NEWS of the muse

Astrology in chamber dance

Chamber dance is so called because it's intimate, more contemplative and often more personal than "regular" modern dance, and the annual Chamber Dance Festival has a devoted circle of fans. This year's, the ninth, is at Tel Aviv's Suzanne Dellal Center from November 19-22 and at Gerard Behar in Jerusalem from November 25-29. It's different from its predecessors in that it blends dance with music.

Jaffa Theater Company returns triumphant

Jaffa's Created Theater company has returned home from Aachen, Germany, trailing clouds of glory following its critically acclaimed presentation of *Penthesilea*. The local premiere will be in Jaffa next month.

'The Full Monty' draws Drew

Prime-time comedian Drew Carey was so taken by the film *The Full Monty* (currently previewing in Israeli cinemas) that he invited the cast to appear in an episode of his television program *The Drew Carey Show*.

Wronged out of copyright for Diana

An Oregon publisher has gone to court seeking credit for a song on Princess Diana's funeral album. OCP Publications, a non-profit religious corporation, owns the copyright for "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" by Sebastian Temple.

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Urban Renewal

Politicians Even A Voter Could Love

By RICHARD L. BERKE

WASHINGTON
MAYOR PAT McCRORY of Charlotte, N.C., a Republican, is so revered that several big-name Democrats refused to take him on this year. That left him two walk-on opponents: a disciple of Lyndon LaRouche and a convicted bank robber given to sporting a pith helmet and a pair of bayonette sheaths. The Mayor practically walked to re-election Tuesday.

In St. Paul, where the Democrat-Farmer-Labor Party has long dominated, Mayor Norm Coleman switched to the Republican Party before this year's election. On Tuesday, despite his defection, Mayor Coleman won re-election easily. The next day, a draft committee announced that it would press the Mayor to run for Governor next year.

And in New York, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani has become so politically untouchable that on election night he was surrounded by more Democrats than his fellow Republicans. That did not stop the Republican Party in Iowa from inviting him the next day to travel to the state to show his stuff for the Presidential competition in 2000. (He declined.)

In an era when elected officials are hardly beloved, occupants of this country's city halls are the closest things to model politicians. As parties become less important and as Republicans and Democrats search for ways to set themselves apart, mayors are setting the course for post-ideological, pragmatic politics.

Last week's elections underscored the trend: No sitting mayor of a large city was turned out. Most won in landslides.

Beyond their popularity, what is striking about these mayors is that they represent different parties, come from different regions and preside over cities with different problems — yet they are remarkably similar: in a highly partisan era, none is especially partisan, and some are disliked by their own party establishments — which could be hazardous to bigger political ambitions.
"You probably wouldn't be able to distinguish who's a Democrat and who's a Republican — we're all managing in very much the same way," said Mayor Tom Murphy of Pittsburgh, who was re-elected Tuesday with 77 percent of the vote.

Mayors are forsaking party loyalty, and winning big.

"My slogan in the campaign was, 'He never forgets to pay the bill.' Sounds pretty Republican, doesn't it?" Mayor Murphy is a Democrat.

Mayor Giuliani, for one, favors abortion rights and has never been forgiven by prominent Republicans for backing Mario M. Cuomo, a Democrat, for re-election in the 1994 gubernatorial race. Mayor Richard Riordan of Los Angeles, a Republican, backed Senator Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat, in her re-election bid that same year. Among the Democrats, Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago has

Continued on Page 2



Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani rising: A landslide on Tuesday, and on Wednesday an invitation to show his stuff in Iowa for the Presidential primaries.

Associated Press

Dissents on Iran and Iraq

Carrots-for-China Policy Haunts U.S. in the Gulf

By CRAIG R. WHITNEY

PARIS
EACH in his own way, President Jiang Zemin of China and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq threw the spotlight last week on a central contradiction of the Clinton Administration's foreign policy — a policy most notable for its heavy emphasis on trade.

During Mr. Jiang's visit to the United States, President Clinton said China was "on the wrong side of history" on human rights, but he resisted threatening trade penalties as a way of prodding it toward democracy. With Iraq, in contrast, the Administration insists that a trade embargo and the threat of military force are the only way to force Saddam Hussein to observe the norms of civilized behavior.

After six years of going along with this approach on Iraq, some of America's allies in the United Nations are starting to argue that what's sauce for the Chinese goose is sauce for the Persian Gulf gander. If trade is the way to get China on the road to salutary behavior, France and Russia ask, why isn't it for Iraq and, for that matter, Iran as well?
"The Chinese case destroys the American pretension to universality on human rights," the well-known French daily Le Monde wrote in an editorial after Mr. Jiang's visit ended last week. "Are they less trampled on in Turkey or Saudi Arabia than in Iran or Cuba? The former are allies of America, which cajoles them; the latter are enemies it is bent on punishing."

As far as Iraq is concerned, French officials agree with the Americans that it's still too early to trust the Iraqi President. Last week, continuing a

long pattern of defiance, Mr. Hussein tried to exploit the split between the allies by barring Americans from United Nations inspection teams, which are trying to make sure that Iraq has no nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. While emissaries tried to reason with Mr. Hussein in Baghdad, there were signs that he was using the impasse to move evidence out of sight of monitoring devices.

Despite such cheek, the United States favors staying the diplomatic course for now, in part because it recognizes that support for its tough approach is flagging.

"We are prepared to go the extra mile diplomatically if that makes other countries take firm action, if necessary, later," said James Rubin, the State Department spokesman. "But it's true that it's harder and harder to sustain support as memories of the gulf war fade."

Leverage

Case in point: the French. While they still don't rule out the use of force, they nevertheless see the repeated pattern of Iraqi challenges and American-led military responses as a vicious cycle that leads nowhere over the long term. They say that since sanctions would have to be eased should Iraq eventually comply fully with disarmament orders, it's better to start talking about how to do that now rather than when compliance happens.

"The more hope we can give Saddam Hussein that trade sanctions might eventually be lifted, the more leverage we have in the long run," a French official said. "If we refuse, we create growing resentment in

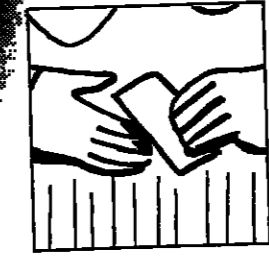
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New Dollar

Lawmakers give their two cents worth on new U.S. silver dollar.

By Eric Schmitt

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Death of a Canard

Yes, political cash buys access. But that's not all.

By Jill Abramson

2

Addiction

Inside Russia's drug culture.

By Michael Specter
Photographs by John Ranard

3



Workers Paradise?

In Europe, benefits abound, but only for full-time workers.

By Edmund L. Andrews

4

The Nation

Money Buys a Lot More Than Access

By JILL ABRAMSON

WASHINGTON
 Since Senator Fred Thompson pulled the plug on his committee's campaign-finance hearings, lawmakers have retreated comfortably to an old certainty: However obvious it may be that big donors buy access to power — over coffee at the White House, say — the purchase of favors is almost impossible to prove.

But if few tears were shed on either side of the aisle when Senator Thompson called off the hearings a little more than a week ago, it may have been precisely because they had turned up tantalizing evidence that money bought far more than face time with influential politicians, many of them on Capitol Hill.

"People have come to understand, and the hearings did emphasize, that money can buy access, but the transaction doesn't stop there," said Elizabeth Drew, author of "Whatever It Takes" (Viking Penguin, 1997), about the role of money in the 1996 elections.

"Access can lead to influence, which can lead to a policy result," Ms. Drew added. "This can be an amendment that is pushed, a regulatory ruling, a contract, or special attention from a Cabinet officer. Virtually all of this the public doesn't see and, frankly, unless someone is very indiscreet, it's hard to prove. People will say, of course, that they made the decision on the merits."

It seems almost comically obvious to most people that political contributions buy access. So does the fact

For many campaign contributors, a foot in the door is just the first step. Once they're inside, it's payback time.

that it sometimes buys far more. But the contention that contributions don't influence policy is an article of faith in official Washington, so evidence of favors traded for cash jolts the local conventional wisdom.

One case study unfolded on the final day of the hearings held by the Senate governmental affairs committee, which was investigating campaign finance abuses in the 1996 elections.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, the witness, was asked to explain this glaring scenario: A group of Indian tribes trying to kill a rival group's casino project hired a Democratic lobbyist, who approached President Clinton about the matter. The group also gave the Democratic Party \$270,000. A White House aide contacted the Interior Department about the casino proposal. According to the testimony of an Arizona lawyer who represented the casino's backers, Mr. Babbitt said in a meeting with him that the White House was pressuring him to make a decision. Mr. Babbitt also remarked upon the tribes' large donations, the lawyer said. That day, the Interior Department rejected the casino project, even though it had been approved by the department's regional office.

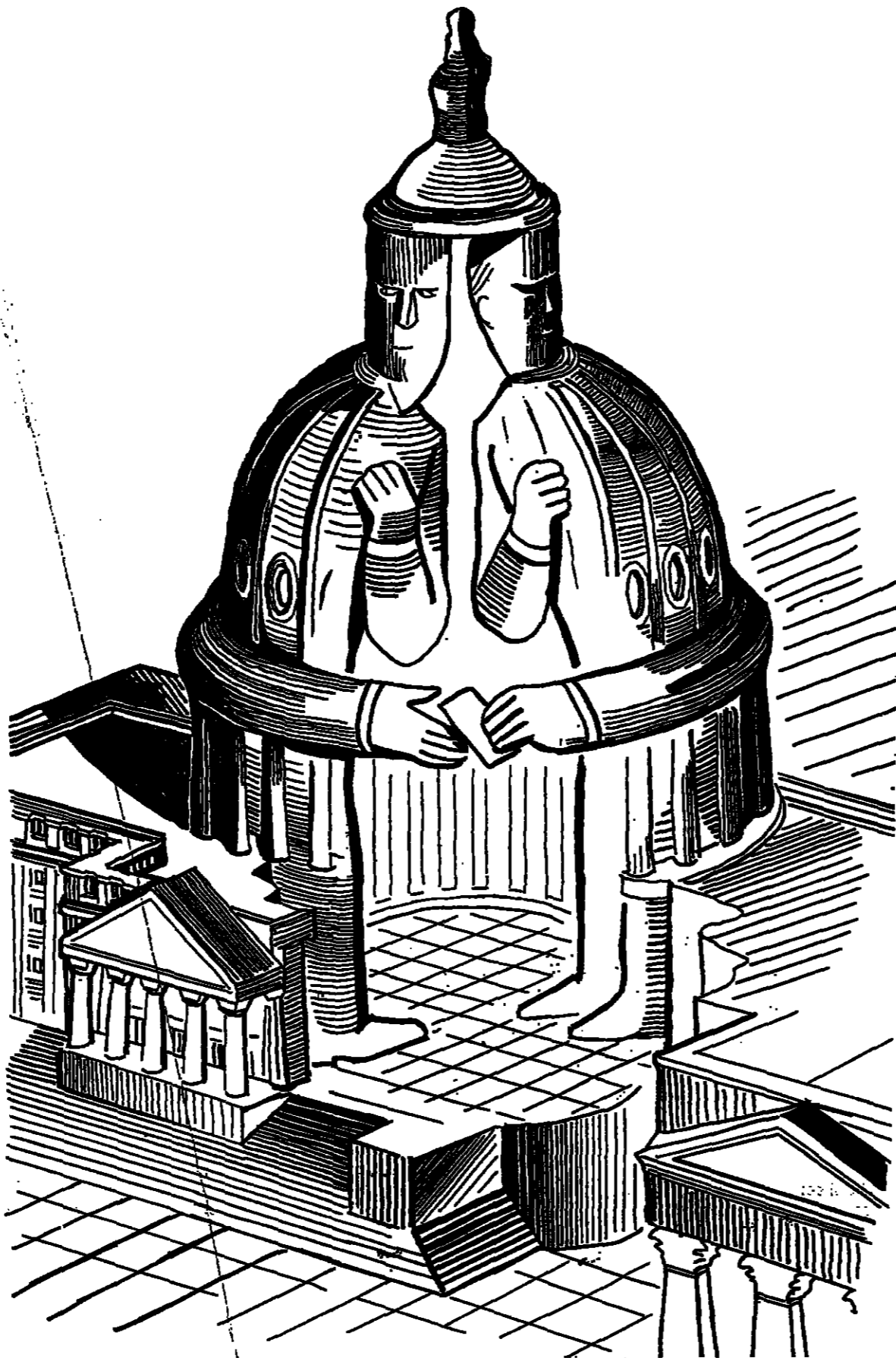
Mr. Babbitt told the committee he had not been pressured by the White House or influenced by campaign contributions. Senator Thompson and other Republicans on the panel called the case the clearest example it had heard of donations influencing policy. The truth of the matter was left blurred in a partisan standoff.

Some other cases looked at by the Thompson panel and other congressional investigators told similar stories:

- Molten Metal Technology Inc., a Massachusetts environmental-technology company, won \$32 million in Federal grants while urging its executives to contribute and raise \$132,000 for the Democrats and President Clinton's re-election effort. The company retained as its lobbyist a former top aide to Vice President Al Gore, who made an Earth Day speech at the company's headquarters. The lobbyist was also a top fundraiser for the Clinton-Gore campaign.

- Two Boston businessmen, Fred Seigel and Alan Leventhal, attended coffees with President Clinton at the same time they were negotiating with the Department of Housing and Urban Development for a role in a program to make federally assisted housing more energy efficient. HUD officials canceled the new loan program after The Wall Street Journal reported that the two men were major Democratic National Committee fund-raisers and benefited from the program.

- Amway Corporation, which over the last four years has given \$3.9 million to the Republican National Committee, won a lucrative measure to ease interna-



David Sizer

tional tax rules on its Asian affiliates in the sweeping tax bill passed by Congress last summer. The measure was championed by the Republican congressional leadership. Democrats on the Thompson committee had considered calling Amway's chairman to testify, but dropped the plan.

In each of these cases, the companies and donors involved have said their contributions were not tied to winning specific favors from the government. Molten Metal's top executives, for example, pointed out that their contracts began during the Bush Administration and argued that the Energy Department supported their technology on its own merits.

Bribery, Perhaps

And in political life it is almost impossible to disprove such explanations, let alone to show a quid pro quo. When the evidence is sufficient, of course, both contributor and recipient can be prosecuted for bribery, but the Justice Department hasn't brought such a charge involving campaign contributions since 1968.

In fact, about the only way to prove a quid pro quo is to have either the donor or the recipient confess. This almost happened in the case of former Senator Robert Packwood, who was forced to resign amid allegations of sexual harassment. Before his departure, Senator Packwood fought hard and lost a battle with the Senate

ethics committee to preserve the confidentiality of a diary he kept.

Among other things, the diary revealed that Senator Packwood had helped win a tax benefit for a lobbyist for Shell Oil Company while the lobbyist was raising funds for his campaign. Mr. Packwood's candor about the relationship between the donations and his actions shocked Washington, though mostly because it seemed so foolhardy to immortalize them in writing. (Mr. Packwood is now a lobbyist himself.)

A few donors have been forthcoming enough. Roger Tamraz, the oilman, told the Thompson panel about giving \$300,000 to the Democratic Party to gain access to the White House in order to push for financing for an international pipeline project in which he was an investor. Still, Mr. Tamraz did not win any Government backing, although he got meetings with officials at the National Security Council and the Energy Department, as well as help from the former chairman of the D.N.C.

Sometimes a donor gets, in return for his efforts, a slap in the face. Mansoor Ijaz, a New York businessman, raised more than \$500,000 for the Democratic cause and met with senior officials in the White House, the State Department and Congress to push for normalizing ties with Sudan, where Mr. Ijaz has business interests. Last week, the State Department announced stiffer sanctions against Sudan for sponsoring international terrorism.

Politicians Even a Voter Could Love

Continued From Page 1

been seen by some in his party as championing an ethnic backlash. And Mayor Michael R. White of Cleveland, in an un-Democrat-like move, took on the teachers union and ridiculed Cleveland's teachers as "the inmates running the asylum."

Few are polished politicians. And despite their success on Election Day, many are not greatly admired personally. In Detroit, when people refer to "the Mayor," usually they still mean the irascible Coleman Young, not Dennis Archer, who succeeded him and was re-elected last week. Mayor Giuliani, according to polls, is more admired than he is liked. Mayor Daley is famously inarticulate. Mayor Riordan, by political standards, is almost a recluse.

Most of these mayors can point to a particular accomplishment in cities once deemed un governable. Mayor Giuliani touts the enormous decline in crime. Mayor Edward Rendell of Philadelphia took on his city's powerful public employee unions. And Mayor Daley took control of his city's schools.

The Whitman Lesson

A few years back, it was the governors — Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey, John Engler of Michigan, Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin — who were the hot political properties, at least in the Republican Party. Three of the last four Presidents had been governors. Now, governors risk even being eclipsed by per-

Not long ago, governors were hot properties. Now they're being eclipsed.

haps less known politicians like Mayors Giuliani, Daley, Riordan, White, Archer and Thomas M. Menino of Boston (who ran unopposed). Mrs. Whitman, a Republican, was almost toppled last week not just by a political unknown but by a mayor, James E. McGreevey of Woodbridge, N.J.

The mayors should be grateful for the timing of the stewardships: in most cities, crime has dropped and economies have revived. "Six to eight years ago, cities were in dire shape, mayors were highly unpopular and the attitude was, 'We govern tough places, please feel sorry for us,'" Mayor Stephen Goldsmith of Indianapolis said. "This new group of mayors has a pragmatism that supersedes political differences."

Gov. George V. Voinovich of Ohio, a Republican who was Mayor of Cleveland, said showy mayors of the past are, for the most part, gone. "I used to kid that in New York City, you had to be an entertainer to be a successful mayor," he said. "But I think we reached a point in this country where people said, 'I don't care how you look, what your style is or how cute you are:

Doggone it! I want to feel safe on the street when go home at night.'"

Indeed, the ascendancy of hands-on, nonpartisan mayors marks a pronounced shift in urban politics. For years, cities were the province of Democratic machines and mayors would not dare toy with unions or social welfare programs.

Their managerial experience and ability to avoid partisanship may be an asset for Mayors who seek higher office. Yet the factors that make them so popular locally can be an obstacle for those with grander ambitions. Mayor Giuliani's cachet with Democrats (45 percent of Democrats who voted Tuesday supported the Mayor) would not serve him well, for example, in Republican Presidential primaries.

"There's a certain suspicion that comes from other municipalities around the state," said Mayor Archer of Detroit, who is mentioned as a candidate for Governor next year. "Sometimes people have a sense that a mayor coming from a large urban area would only have his or her city as a priority."

Senator Dirk Kempthorne of Idaho, a Republican who was Mayor of Boise, cited himself as evidence that there was hope for advancement. "When he contemplated running for mayor, he said, 'I was told by political experts it was a dead-end street.'"

Still, the record is not encouraging. Only three mayors have made it to the White House: Andrew Johnson of Greenville, Tenn., Grover Cleveland of Buffalo and, the closest thing to a modern politician to make the leap, Calvin Coolidge of Northampton, Mass.

Desperately Seeking the Next Susan B.

By ERIC SCHMITT

WASHINGTON
 CONGRESS is on the verge of replacing the much-maligned Susan B. Anthony dollar, but now the question is, with what?

The Anthony dollar has been a flop with the public ever since the coin was minted between 1979 and 1981, mainly because its size, silver color and ridged edge made the dollar feel too much like a quarter.

After languishing in currency oblivion, the coin's popularity picked up in 1994 after public transit systems began using the coins as tokens and the Postal Service installed 9,000 stamp-vending machines that accepted the dollars.

The United States Mint expects to distribute the last of the original supply of 857 million Anthony dollars by 2000, and lawmakers are lining up to give their two cents worth on a successor acceptable to the influential vending-machine industry.

The leading candidate is a gold-colored, smooth-rimmed coin that supporters say will be easy to distinguish from other change even though it will remain the size of a quarter. The idea is gaining momentum, and the House and Senate could approve the switch before lawmakers adjourn for the year in the next few days.

"Some might ask, why bother?" said Representative Michael N. Castle, a Delaware Republican who is sponsoring the House bill. "But if we don't keep currency

For the next \$1 coin, heads it's Margaret Chase Smith, tails it's Sojourner Truth.

that's appealing to the public, people will shift to electronic money or smart cards. There is nothing wrong in such a shift if people want it rather than having it forced upon them by poor planning."

With everything from gumball machines to parking meters costing more, supporters are casting the new dollar as the coin of choice for the 21st century. But other legislators grumble that any \$1 coin is a born loser. "A dollar coin, no matter what color it is, is too close in size to a quarter and I don't like the idea of lugging more coins around in my pockets," said Representative Thomas M. Davis 3d, a Republican of Virginia.

Over the years, the dollar coin has lost its luster in more ways than one. The Treasury Department minted the last true silver dollar for circulation in 1935, and the last dollar coin with any trace of silver in 1976. Nowadays, most coins are made of a copper-nickel alloy, as the new \$1 coin will probably be.

Time's a-Wastin'

The Treasury Department endorses the numismatic face lift and wants to get cracking. There is a 30-month supply of Anthony dollars left, coincidentally just the amount of time the Mint says it needs to redesign the \$1 coin, test new alloys and put the revamped dollar into circulation. If Congress does not act in time, the nation's coin law requires the Mint to make a whole new batch of the unpopular Anthony dollars, a prospect no one relishes.

The fight over coin politics has been going on for more than a decade. For years, the ink and paper industries have squared off against a coalition of mostly vending machine operators and transit agencies, which supports replacing the \$1 bill with a \$1 coin because coins are easier to deal with.

"Transportation authorities across this nation would love to substitute dollar coins for dollar bills," said Alfred A. Outlaw, director of revenue operations for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, the transit agency in Philadelphia.

Opponents of paper dollars say the \$1 coin doesn't stand a chance until the \$1 bill is retired, a move taken by Canada when it successfully introduced its gold-colored \$1 coin a decade ago. "No matter how beautiful this coin will be, it will not circulate in large numbers," predicted James C. Benfield, executive director of the Coin Coalition, a group of 29 trade groups ranging from the Public Telephone Council to the American Council of the Blind.

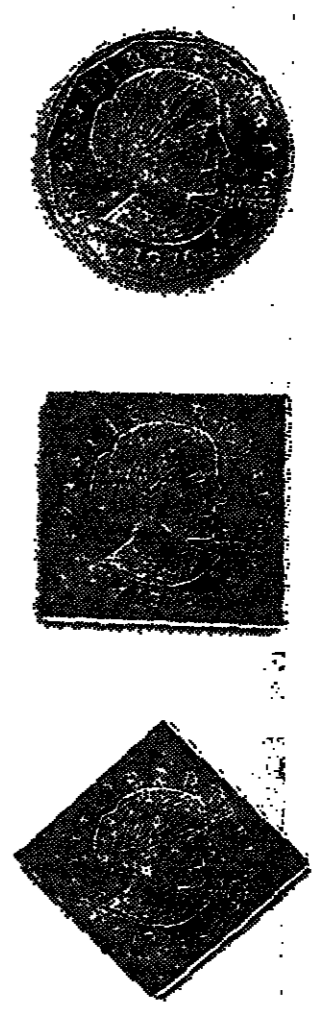
For now, though, the future of the \$1 bill is safe.

The last big issue is deciding whose image goes on the new \$1 coin. Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato of New York, the head of the Banking Committee, which has jurisdiction over currency, has joined Mr. Castle in championing the Statue of Liberty on one side. "It would represent a powerful and wonderful tribute to freedom and to the women of America," said Mr. D'Amato.

But a group of Senators wants a dollar coin that depicts a woman or women of historical significance. "We need to have a real woman, not a statue," said Senator Barbara Boxer, a California Democrat.

Some of the women in the running include Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine and four suffragettes: Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott and even Susan B. Anthony. An American eagle will probably appear on the reverse side.

Congress seems willing to let the Treasury Department sort out the choices. "If Treasury wants something else, fine," said Representative Castle. "The more important thing is to get the coin out."

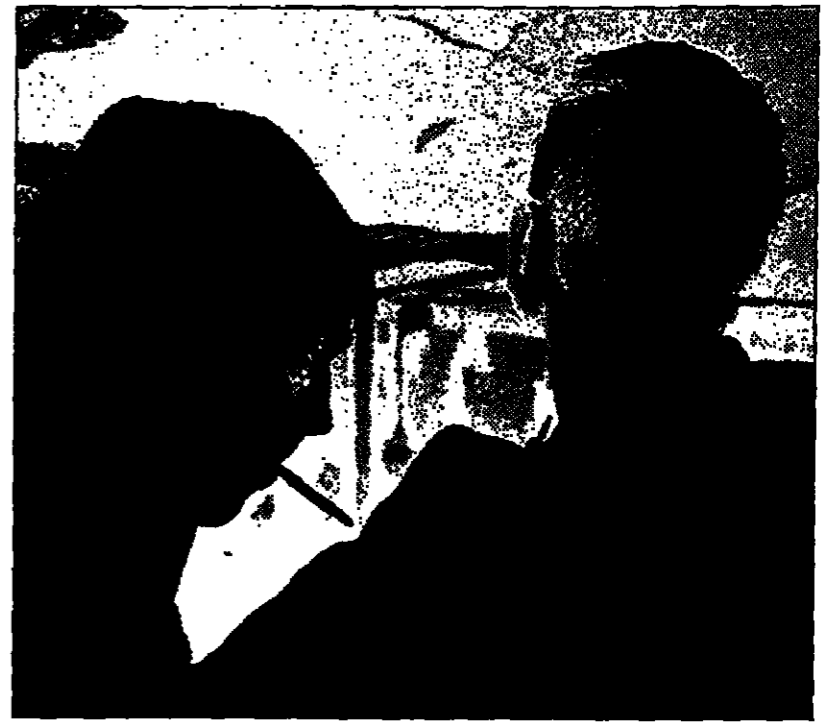


مركز القدس

The World



Shooting Up in Odessa An addict with AIDS, above, in the only state hospital treating such patients. No drug treatment is available, so his brother smuggles in heroin. Two users, right, form a risky partnership, one emptying a syringe into the other's neck.



Hard-Core Habits

As America's rates of drug abuse and new AIDS cases ease, the former Soviet Union faces a deepening drug culture that has led to an explosive epidemic of AIDS. Mostly it is the young who drift heedlessly into addiction, experimenting with cheap heroin or amphetamines. And in a land where needles are common-

place, their use has spread the H.I.V. virus. Many prostitutes, exposed through unprotected sex or shared syringes, are testing positive.

The photographs here, the work of an American photojournalist, show that the drug life encompasses not only prostitutes but also college students and enterprising housewives.

A Drug Plague Boils Out of Russia's Kitchens

By MICHAEL SPECTER

LAST week Russia celebrated the 80th anniversary of its Bolshevik Revolution. Despite Communism's legacy of suffering and despair, the anniversary remains a national holiday, and millions of its victims unashamedly present each other with cognac, flowers and chocolate as if it were Christmas.

That is because the world created by the Bolsheviks has proven hard to shed even for those who want nothing more. In many ways the Soviet mentality lives on, giving rise to a new form of collectivism, the shared experience that has been at the core of 20th-century Russian life.

For decades the kitchen has been the central symbol of this communal society, a place where dozens of neighbors forced to live together would grumble, grab some vodka and try to make it through the night. When the Communists ran Russia, the kitchen dissident was regarded with esteem and his fevered plots gave rise to a collective insubordination that most people welcomed. But the communal kitchen — and the culture of oversharing that it represents — has taken on a sinister new role: It is the center of a new home-brewed drug culture that threatens to decimate the country's youth while smothering a wave of crime that has already put the country's partial democracy at risk.

Russia has become one of the world's great drug bazaars. Cheap liquid heroin often costs little more than an ice cream sandwich. Children as young as 12 regularly experiment with a special cut-rate and low-quality brand of heroin called Chorniy, which means black, and originates mostly from the poorly guarded borders of Pakistan, Afghanistan and other countries in Central Asia.

The Russian Parliament has refused to see drug abuse as a social ill. Hospitals are too overburdened to deal with the epidemic of addiction until it also involves an illness like AIDS or tuberculosis that is never far from the world of narcotics.

The sheer number of users makes it hard to form a serious and effective control strategy.

"I make it all in my kitchen," said Alyosha, a 17-year-old user and dealer. His product, as available at the market as bananas or eggplant, is a mixture of white and brown heroin. It is often heavily adulterated, then boiled and served in glasses like tea. Depending on the quality, three doses cost less than \$10.

"It smells very bad when you cook it," he said. "But not for long. We get used to it."

Russia has no needle exchange programs or methadone clinics (methadone is against the law). Fatalism, the grave national characteristic, tends to govern the activities of most drug addicts.

Asked the routine questions — why? what about dirty needles and AIDS? — the surprisingly healthy-looking teen-ager shrugs. "It is not as if there is a job out

there for me. Or a place in an institute." Pushed a bit, he says he doesn't want to die, and hopes to move on to another phase of life sometime soon.

But it may be harder than he thinks. Alienation always looms as a danger to youth; nowhere is that now more obvious than here.

Addiction has become so common that statistics are hard to believe. There are more than 2 million drug addicts in Russia today, according to the Ministry of Interior, which polices drug abuse. The United Nations Drug Control Program says the countries of the former Soviet Union, particularly Russia, are on the verge of becoming the biggest drug-consumers in the world. Many addicts are in their teens, attracted by the low prices and lenient laws. And the future in the work force could hardly seem less inviting.

'Just Gets Worse'

"We are up against an immense problem and it just gets worse every year," said Vladimir Ivanov, who runs a Moscow-based foundation devoted to protecting young people from drugs. "Ignorance is common, hopelessness is, too." Mr. Ivanov and others point out that police punish drug users, who often turn to petty thievery and prostitution, more often than they do dealers. "The whole system is set up to encourage drug use," he said.

Drug-related crimes have risen tenfold since 1988, and police, social workers and health care workers openly concede that the problem is beyond their control.

"It all washed in at once from all over the world," said Aleksandr Sergeev, the head of the Interior Ministry's anti-drug department. "We can attempt to limit the flow and we can attempt to get some of the drug addicts off the streets. But we only have so much money and so many men."

Private rehabilitation centers are rare, and the law forces addicts into special narcotics hospitals that do little to cure them. Few people have money for serious treatment.

So enter a courtyard or a park in Moscow, St. Petersburg or a dozen other cities and you are likely to be met by a seedy group of strung-out men in black leather. They don't seem threatening, just lost. They spend their lives in courtyards, kitchens and, occasionally, detention centers. In Kaliningrad, where drug addiction has fueled Russia's biggest epidemic of AIDS by far, the best place to shop for drugs is at the university. No need to hide or wait until dark, either.

"They all know," one student said recently, casting a grim glance at three policemen nearby. And then, saying something that used to be said in kitchens across the Soviet Union, he laughed: "What are they going to do? Arrest all of us? They'd have to start a new Gulag."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN RANARD



Piping Hot 'Vint' An amphetamine, is cooked up in a Moscow kitchen. A dose costs under \$2; its high can last 24 hours.



Market Forces In Lubyanki Square in downtown Moscow. Two middle-class housewives who deal in paraphernalia and chemicals for making drugs haggle with a young customer across the way from the old KGB headquarters.



Curbside Trade Odessa's bright lights lure a 17-year-old from the depressed Ukrainian countryside into a life of prostitution. Many of the women on the street turn to drugs.



While Parents Are Away University students in Moscow try ketamine, a cheap anesthetic that causes hallucinations. They each bought fresh syringes, but share a bottle filled with many doses.

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The World

The Jobless Are Snared In Europe's Safety Net

By EDMUND L. ANDREWS

EVEN today, after years of rising unemployment, it isn't hard to see why Germany once won worldwide praise as a workers' paradise. Full-time employees are entitled to six weeks of paid vacation. They get comprehensive health insurance, including, every four years, three weeks of "spa leave" for recuperation at health resorts, if a doctor prescribes it. Unemployment and job-training benefits can easily last more than two years. Universities are free and good. And as in most of Europe, tough laws make it almost impossible to fire people.

But you need a full-time job to enter paradise, and Europe is short about 18 million of them. Even though the continent appears poised for its first significant growth in years, unemployment remains more than twice as high as in the United States and no one expects it to decline much in 1998. European heads of state will meet for a summit conference on joblessness in Luxembourg this month, but few people expect any big results.

Sharing the Pain

Europe's problem transcends jobs. It is also about the distribution of pain and insecurity. Largely because its laws and union contracts have enshrined so many job guarantees, the European system protects those who have jobs at the expense of those who do not. The burdens fall disproportionately on people who cannot find work, and those tend to be young high school or college graduates or older workers who have been forced out of work through plant closings and aren't considered re-trainable.

The insecurity shows up in many areas. In France, about two-thirds of all newly hired workers are on temporary contracts of less than one year. These limited-term jobs allow companies to provide benefits but escape rules making it all but impossible to dismiss workers. In Germany, 5.5 million workers are in a special category of part-time jobs that pay no more than 610 marks a month — about \$350 — in which neither the worker nor the employer has to pay for unemployment insurance, health insurance or retirement. But the Government does.

A wealth of evidence shows that part-time work falls to young people and women in particular. More than one-third of European workers under the age of 25 are in temporary jobs, while another one-third work without company benefits as "self-employed" contractors. Part-timers account for 16.5 percent of workers across the European Union. Only one-third of the people with full-time jobs are female.

By contrast, the United States Labor Department estimates that part-time work has been fairly constant,

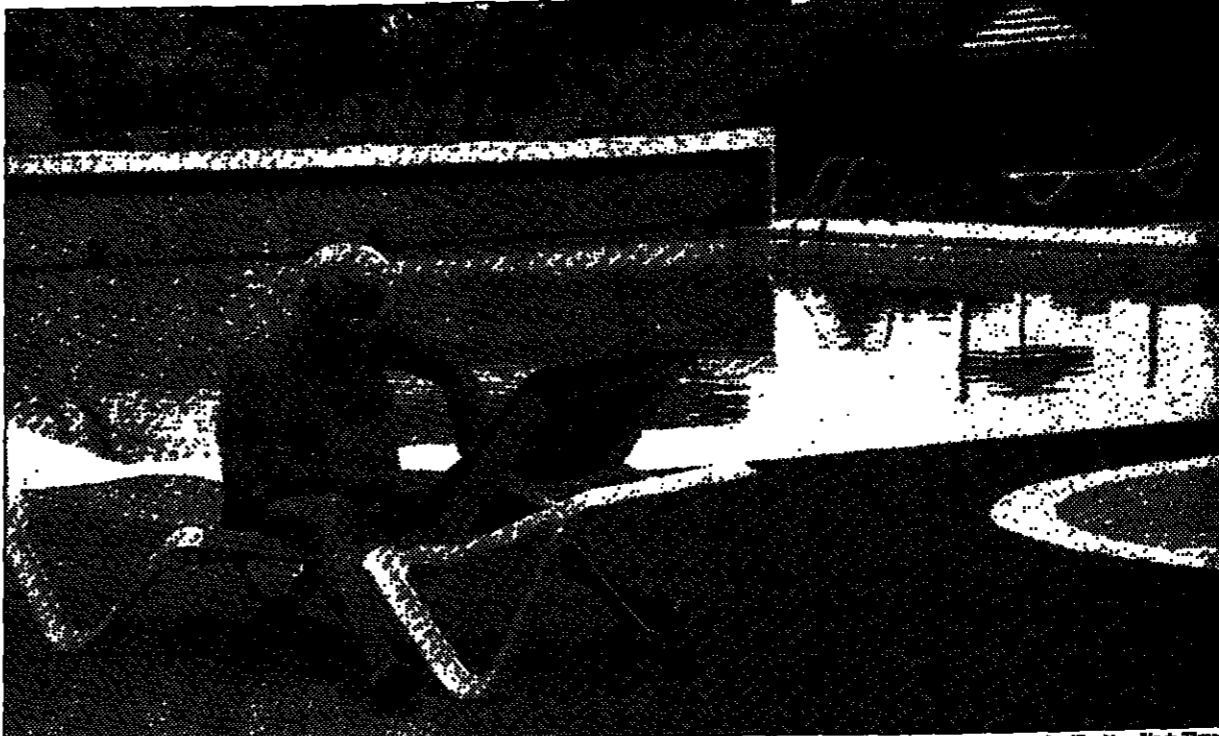


Demonstrators in Berlin protest unemployment.

encompassing nearly one-fifth of the American work force. Temporary workers, loosely defined to include people who don't expect their jobs to last very long, account for only 2.2 percent of the work force, according to the Labor Department. Meanwhile, American jobless rate of 5 percent remains less than half that of Europe.

Guenter Wiswede, head of the Institute for Economic and Social Psychology at the University of Cologne, said, "We now have the curious situation where companies are growing and becoming more profitable, but their success comes from being able to do that with fewer workers."

"There is a gap between workers who have secured their jobs and workers who either don't have jobs or whose jobs are endangered," Professor Wiswede added. "On the one side are people with secure jobs, who are typically highly qualified, highly involved with their work and well paid. On the other side are the workers on the margin — young people or people over the age of 50 who can't easily be integrated into the workplace. These are the two big problem areas."



A man enjoys a little poolside reading at the Norwegian Government's health center in the Canary Islands.

As if that were not enough, European governments are now under enormous pressure to cut social spending in order to bring their fiscal deficits down low enough to meet the guidelines for joining the new single European currency, the euro, in 1999.

The strains are becoming particularly acute as European business comes under increasingly heavy pressure from global competition. Most economists now predict that Germany and France will enjoy economic growth of more than 2.5 percent next year. European economic growth might even surpass that of the United States. The jobless rate, however, will remain at roughly current levels for at least another year.

The relentlessly bleak job picture was central to the election defeat of French conservatives and the victory of Socialists last June. Chancellor Helmut Kohl's political credibility in Germany has been severely damaged by his failure to make progress toward halving the unemployment rate by 2000, and he faces a tough re-election battle next year.

For many workers, the short-term outlook is likely to worsen. European corporations have been consumed by merger mania and tough-minded restructuring. Marginal businesses are being sold or shut down. Workers are being laid off or forced into early retirement. The drumbeat of new announcements is almost daily.

When two of Germany's biggest heavy-industry conglomerates merged their steel mills early this year, they announced that 7,000 German workers would lose their jobs over the next few years. The companies, Thyssen A.G. and the Krupp-Hoesch Group, liked the profits so much that they announced last week that they would merge all their other businesses and save an additional \$250 million a year.

In an ever blunter move two weeks ago, Asea Brown-Boveri, a giant Swedish-Swiss engineering company, said it would cut 10,000 workers, most of them in Europe, and plow the savings into Asia. And Roche Holding A.G., the

Swiss pharmaceutical giant that is buying a German manufacturer of diagnostic kits for about \$10 billion, announced that it would cut 5,000 people, or nearly 7 percent of that company's work force.

Of course, this is Europe, and these workers aren't simply fired. Companies reduce their payroll mostly through attrition and early retirement. And in Germany, laid-off workers are entitled to as much as 70 percent of their salary for at least a year. Job-training money, for both the cost of education and the cost of living, can replace much of a person's earnings for even longer.

Full benefits in these workers' paradises are for full-time employees only.

In some quarters, there are signs of fatalism about the inevitability of higher unemployment. The French Government under Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, a Socialist, is trying to conjure up new jobs by shortening the workweek — while not cutting pay. The theory is that companies will hire more people if each person works less. Germany's biggest union, which represents machinery and metal workers, is pushing a 32-hour week but proposing that pay be trimmed proportionately.

Business executives, economists and even top officials at the European Commission in Brussels have loudly denounced both plans. More than one person has remarked that the shortened workweek should be taken to its logical conclusion: cut back the hours all the way to zero and guarantee everyone a job.

Allies Dissent On Iraq

Continued From Page 1

the whole Iraqi population," he said, since the sanctions hurt the Iraqi people and not Mr. Hussein. Officials in Russia, also on the United Nations Security Council, expressed the same view.

Of course, both France and Russia may simply be tired of being led around by the nose in the Persian Gulf by the World's Only Superpower. Probably more important, they'd like to trade with Iran and Iraq about as much as America likes to trade with China. "No country has a foreign policy based solely on human rights," Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine observed recently, and American policy toward China proves his point.

After the Persian Gulf war ended in 1991 with Mr. Hussein's army driven from Kuwait — but short of an allied push to Baghdad to oust him — American leaders believed, or hoped, that a trade embargo and other restrictions would quickly cause his downfall. They guessed wrong. The French and Russians now argue that since the Americans are unlikely to send an army back in to finish the job, and since the world has to live with Mr. Hussein anyway, it should think about carrots as well as sticks to get him to change his ways.

Exactly what kind of carrots is not yet clear, and the French agree with the United States that now is not the time to offer them. But, they argue, a trade embargo isn't a policy; at best, they say, it can be only one element in a broader strategy to encourage moderation and engagement with the West, in both Iraq and Iran.

Clearly, feelings against either country do not run as strongly in Europe as they do in Washington. On Iraq, key to the divergent views is Americans' bitter memory of the 44-day hostage-taking at the United States Embassy in Teheran starting 18 years ago this month.

'Critical Dialogue'

In 1995, Europeans preferred to maintain a "critical dialogue" with Iran rather than join the United States in imposing trade sanctions over the Islamic regime's support for terrorism. And in September, a French oil company, Total, joined Russian and Malaysian concerns in a \$2 billion joint deal to explore an Iranian natural gas field under the gulf; the French Government backed them in thumping their noses at American extraterritorial legislation aimed at punishing foreign firms that do business with Iran, Libya or Cuba.

Europeans who support the tough American stance on Iraq — even the British — detest American efforts to apply such laws to them. They depend on trade for an economic revival on the continent.

How anxious Europeans are to look on the bright side is clear in their recent policy toward Iran. All 15 European Union countries withdrew their ambassadors from Teheran last summer after a German court found the leadership there responsible for ordering a terrorist bombing in Berlin five years ago. They have not yet sent the envoys back in only because Iran insists on dictating to them the order in which they may return, with Germany returning last. The Europeans have balked.

But it's clearly only a matter of time before they do go back. American attempts to force them into a more "moral" policy just make them more determined, a fact Washington has recognized by avoiding a direct confrontation so far with France and Russia over the gas deal.

Eventually, the sanctions issue will have to be revisited with Iraq as well. Count on the European allies and the Arab countries in the gulf-war coalition to remember the China parallel.

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ECONOMY

Publisher as Impresario

By ROBIN POGREBIN

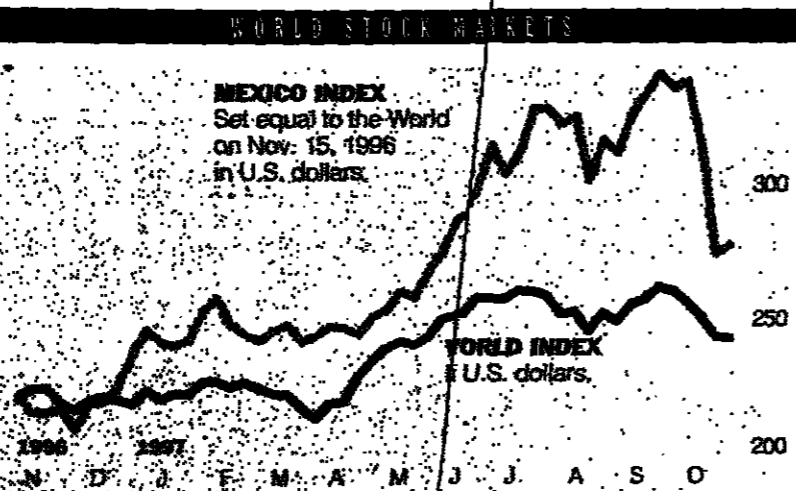
RICHARD D. BECKMAN was sweating. Radio City Music Hall was filled with 6,100 people who had come to see the GQ Men of the Year Awards. The VH-1 cameras were rolling; the singer Carly Simon was struggling to read the Teleprompter; the comedian Dennis Miller was making cracks about production delays.

— like coffee mugs or a pair of hockey tickets — thrown in for the advertisers? And what happened to the notion that the prime creative force behind a magazine was its editor, not the head of the ad department? On this October night, though, all Mr. Beckman cared about was whether he had pulled off his really big show. And by midnight, when 340 of the attendees tucked into their beef tenders at the post-awards black-tie supper at the Rainbow Room, the event had been dubbed a whopping success.

just words and pictures on a page. And readers end up with magazines whose content is increasingly driven by these mechanisms, from splashy spreads about award winners to glossy advertising sections often barely distinguishable from the editorial. In all of this, publishers have been thrust into an ever-bigger role in shaping the personalities of their publications. "I'm not there just to sell pages," Mr. Beckman said in an interview at his elegant Madison Avenue office at Condé Nast Publications, where he can close the door with the push of a button. "I'm there to insure the vitality and the profitability of the magazine."



Richard D. Beckman, publisher of GQ, is never far from his appointment book.



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

PERFORMANCE IN U.S. DOLLARS IN LOCAL CURR.

Table with columns: Country, Index, Week % Chg., Rank, YTD % Chg., Rank, Dividend Yield, Index, YTD % Chg. Rows include Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and United States.

COMPOSITE INDICES

Table with columns: Region, Index, Week % Chg., Rank, YTD % Chg., Rank, Dividend Yield, Index, YTD % Chg. Rows include Europe, Pacific Basin, Europe/Pacific, and World.

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1997 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's.

CURRENCIES

Table with columns: Exchange rate, Friday, Last Friday, Week % Chg., Year Ago. Rows include Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar, German marks to the U.S. dollar, Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar, and U.S. dollars to the British pound.

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets. Exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

Nov. 3-7: Asian Markets Continue to Falter, and Inflation Fears Rise

Table with columns: PRICES, Domestic Equities, Broad market S. & P. 500 index, Blue chips Dow 30 Industrials, Small capitalization Russell 2000 Index. Values show various percentage changes and index levels.

Table with columns: DOMESTIC BONDS, Treasuries, Municipals, Corporates. Values show percentage changes and index levels.

Table with columns: AROUND THE WORLD, European stocks, Asian stocks, Gold. Values show percentage changes and index levels.

Table with columns: YIELDS, Bonds, Long bonds, 30-year Treasuries, Notes, 2-year Treasuries, Municipals, Bond Buyer index. Values show yields and percentage changes.

Table with columns: OTHER INVESTMENTS, Money market funds, Taxable average, Bank C.D.'s, 1-year small savers, Stocks, S. & P. 500 dividend yield. Values show yields and percentage changes.



Source: Bank Rate Monitor; Bloomberg Financial Markets; The Bond Buyer; Datastream; Goldman, Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch; Standard & Poor's; Ryan Labs

The battle of the bereaved

Charles and Pauline Posner of England want to be able to visit the grave of their son Gidon, who died in February's IDF helicopter crash. Their struggle to win government support has highlighted the plight of bereaved parents; Amy Klein reports

Gidon Posner had already been living in England with his family for eight years when he decided to return to Israel and join the army. He was killed in the helicopter crash in the North last February along with 72 other soldiers. His parents, Charles and Pauline Posner, were flown in from England for the funeral and again for the *shloshim* — the 30 day period marking his death. His older brother Simon, who also served in the army a year before, still lives in Israel.

During that initial period following their son's death, many Israeli officials visited the Posners.

"From the president down, people expressed how sorry they were and how they would do anything to help," said Charles Posner this week during a visit to Israel for a mobile unit dedication ceremony in honor of his son and the other soldiers.

But when it came time to make good on those offers, the Posners found the Israeli government unable — or unwilling — to follow through. Their request to the Ministry of Defense to sponsor three trips to Israel a year to visit Gidon's grave was denied. Written responses from the rehabilitation department (the branch of the Defense Ministry which deals with bereaved parents) and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, referred to the regulations for bereaved parents, which provided, after the first *yahrzeit*, one flight to Israel every 10 years. "We cannot deviate from [the rule]. This is the law for all the bereaved parents who live outside of Israel," Mordechai wrote.

Media exposure of the Posner's plight brought in offers from various organizations to finance the family's flights and accommodations in Israel. But it didn't change the Ministry of Defense's position.

The Posners gratefully declined the "charity. We want the state to pay for this. We are not asking for anything extra," says Posner, "but instead of getting what everyone else is getting and which we can't take advantage of, we'd like to visit our son's grave three times a year."

The 1950 law for bereaved parents gives parents special rights and privileges regarding the burial and care of their loved ones, and is supposed to "permit the families to function in all walks of life, personal, familial and social."

The law does not always live up to that — as is evident from the Posner's case as well as that of other parents of the helicopter victims.

In denying the Posner's request, the Defense Ministry cited its rehabilitation department rules, which are based on the bereaved parents' law.

"The Posners wanted automatic approval for three flights a year and it just doesn't work that way,"

said a spokesperson from the ministry. "They need to apply to the committee for special cases, which can approve their request. They have to follow the procedures."

As it happens, the stipulation of only one flight every 10 years is not a law but rather a rule in the rehabilitation department's booklet written by the Defense Ministry.

"This rule should be changed," said MK Eliezer Zandberg (Tzomet), who, after following the Posner story on the radio, wrote a memo to the Defense Minister. "Once every 10 years is something that the Ministry of Defense probably thought was reasonable, otherwise they'd have someone coming this year, their sister and grandmother the next, demanding flights. In any case, we have to change the current procedures."

Zandberg estimates that "it will take some time to resolve this illogical thing."

The fear "that hundreds of people will be coming to us and demanding flights" if the once-every-10-year rule is changed, begs Charles Posner's main question: "Why should we have to apply to a special committee for outstanding requests?" he asks. "There are others like us and this should be standard. People are receiving flights on an ad hoc basis. They should change the law."

Even when someone does follow standard procedures, it barely makes a difference. Just ask Sammy Wechselbaum, in Israel this week — at his own expense — for the fifth *yahrzeit* anniversary of his son Eran, who was killed in the *Tse'elim B* accident on November 5, 1992.

The Wechselbaums, unlike the Posners, are native Israelis. They

went to America 15 years ago. After Eran graduated from New York University at Stony Brook with a double major in math and physics, he came to Israel and joined the *sayeret matkal* — the General Staff Reconnaissance Unit.

After his death, the government flew his parents here for the *shiva*, the *shloshim* and Remembrance Day. "In the first couple of years, we came on average six or seven times a year. I applied for reimbursement for one trip per year," says Wechselbaum. They were compensated for trips of the second and third year. After that nothing.

"My son was a *chayal boded* (lone soldier — one whose parents don't live in Israel). Lone soldiers receive certain privileges: rent subsidies, a trip to visit their family; it should go both ways. When the army took my son as a lone soldier they had two choices: They could keep him alive and well or they could pay."

Wechselbaum scoffs at the other benefits he is offered as a bereaved parent, which are of no real value abroad. "We receive monthly payments. But why do I need the car, TV and air conditioner tax exemptions?" Regarding the benefits they can use out of the country, he says, "So what? I tried to get school payments for my daughter — tuition is \$4200 dollars; they gave me NIS 1000." "I insist that the government should pay for my flight — at least once a year."

It is impossible to assess the value of what the government gives to bereaved families because many of the benefits are allocated according to income, and others are specific to certain people.

All families automatically receive a monthly payment from the Ministry of Defense according to their income, and a health allocation once a year (NIS 252 per day for eight days, per person). Other benefits, which must be applied for at the rehabilitation department office (usually in person) range from those having to do with the deceased, such as money for a monument, a *yizkor* book and transportation to the cemetery on special days; to benefits to help the bereaved adjust. This includes psychological treatment, professional training and assistance in obtaining a driver's license.

The bereaved are also entitled to legal and economic aid, which includes nursing home payments, unemployment compensation, tax breaks on cars for personal use, housing discounts, and tax rebates for household goods.

There are 150 bereaved families — 450 people — living outside of Israel who receive benefits from the government. (There are also a number who have forfeited their rights.) These families are entitled to all the benefits accorded to families in Israel. (In the reverse situation, a bereaved parent whose



The Posners at the Western Wall last week. Who should pay to enable them to visit their son's grave? (Isaac Harni)

The families of 73

A stormy meeting in October in the Druze village of Beit Jann brought the families of the 73 helicopter victims back into the headlines. They were attending a private ceremony to dedicate a monument to one of the victims when a verbal fight broke out. One of the fathers, Ya'akov Gottlieb, attacked the government and the army for sweeping the issue of negligence under the rug. Others shouted their disapproval. But that meeting was not indicative of the relationship between the families and their problems with the government, says Eli Dahan, representative of the families.

"The problem was caused by one of the few families who want to go about getting what we need in a different way," says Dahan.

What the families want from the government, as a group, is to change the wording on the official monument to their sons. Instead of "fell in the helicopter crash on their way to a military action in the West Bank," they want it to say "fell in the helicopter crash on their way to a military action in the West Bank. After the accident there was a bridge to the site, but they took the bridge away after a few days."

Dahan says the government hasn't even acknowledged the parents' concerns regarding the wording on the monument and the bridge. "The Minister of Defense just said that it can't be changed," Dahan says. "The Ministry, although it represents families who do, Aliza, Eran and Roni, whose son Eran also died in the crash, says, 'On the whole, they are generally OK. We wanted to change the wording on our monument to say 'brother of Segal and Chana,' but we can't deal with [going through] those channels. One day when it's easier, we won't involve the government and we'll do it ourselves.'"

The families meet once or twice a month to discuss their needs, and to talk to each other. Last week's dedication ceremony at the Western Wall of a mobile medical unit was a better example of their relationship than the meeting at Beit Jann, explains Dahan. "But there were no fights or problems there, so the media didn't cover it."

Amy Klein

child is buried outside of the country, gets the same treatment: a trip for the funeral, the *shloshim* and first Remembrance Day, and one trip every 10 years after that.)

But even some of those families who live in Israel and can take advantage of all the benefits are not happy with what they see as the government's curt treatment.

Eli Dahan represents the 73 bereaved families of the helicopter crash which killed his son Assaf. They meet every two to four weeks. (See box.)

"There are many cases where families need more help than they are getting," Dahan says. He describes one 50-year-old bereaved mother, who cannot work and is incapable of taking care of her house. He could not even get a housekeeper once a week for her. The defense minister wrote that he cannot change the rules.

Dahan says that the Posners are in "a terrible situation," with little emotional support and insufficient funding to cover the cost of their flights to Israel.

"We are so isolated," said Pauline Posner before she went back to England, leaving her husband and son to go to the Friday and Saturday "retreat" for the parents of the 10-man "Orev" unit in which Gidon served. "I am torn. I can't know where to be. But I can't take off that much. I am on vacation without pay and I can't just walk out, and I can't take advantage of these things that Israel gives bereaved parents."

While the Ministry of Defense has given the Posners over NIS 12,000 of benefits, (which includes the standard health and psychological treatment, and the extra flights and accommodations), they would rather that all requests for flights and accommodations be referred to the "special requests committee," on a per-case basis.

Charles Posner, who is emotionally drained, is sorry he has to fight for what he thinks should be granted automatically. Regarding the possible change of regulations to allow him one flight a year he says, "It's not enough, but it would be better than nothing at all."

book

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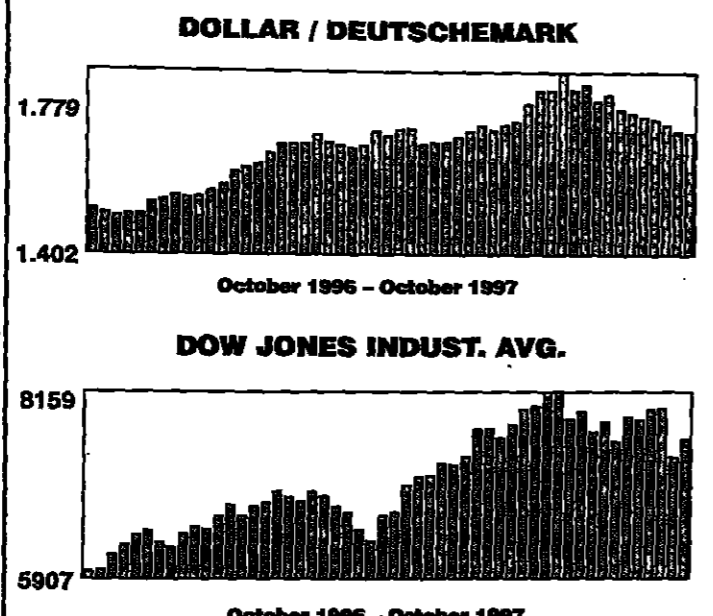
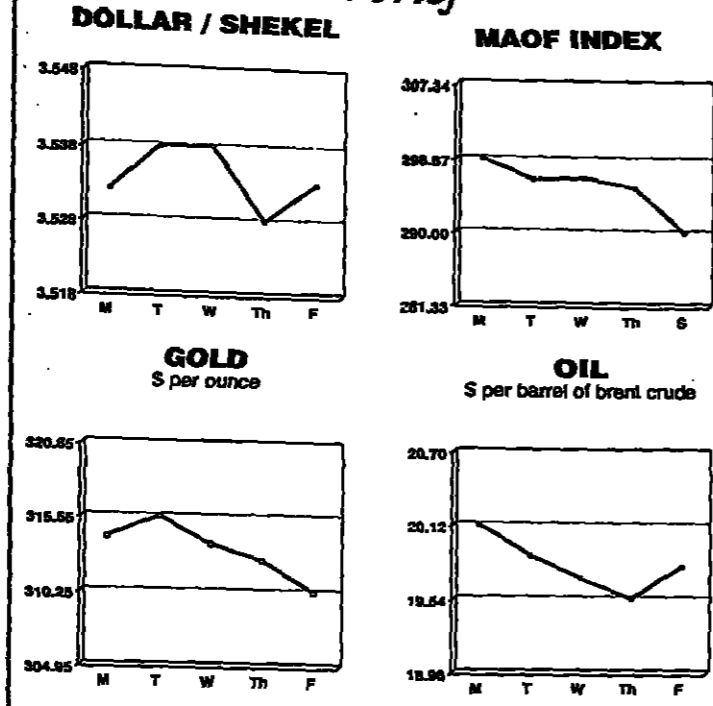
DEPARTMENTS

Monday, November 10, 1997

BUSINESS & FINANCE

MARKETS

in brief



Canada-Israel trade up 50%
Since Canada and Israel began implementing a free trade agreement in January, binational trade in the first eight months of the year jumped 50 percent to more than \$295 million. Canadian imports in the period totaled \$200m., while exports amounted to \$95.8m.

The free trade agreement's purpose is to substantially increase trade in both directions, and it seems to be doing that, said Canada's Ambassador to Israel David Berger, during a meeting to celebrate the launching of the Taste of Canada food fair at the Sheraton Hotel in Tel Aviv.

From January through August, Canadian exports of machinery, mechanical tools, textiles and paper grew substantially, while food exports leaped by 131%. The arrival of the President's Choice label has propelled this trend. The food brand makes up 10% of the Greenberg supermarket chain's sales, Berger said.

The ambassador said Canadian airplane manufacturer Bombardier is in negotiations to sell three or four Dash 8 planes to Arkia. The 78-seat planes are larger and quieter than their predecessor, the Dash 7.

A Canadian Embassy spokesperson also mentioned that David Azrieli, the developer behind the \$400m. Shalom Project in Tel Aviv, is thought to be planning his next investment, a \$100m. - \$200m. complex in an undisclosed location. Jennifer Friedlin

ESC, Laser Ind. merger to create medical-equipment world leader

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

ESC Medical, a Yokne'am-based developer of cosmetic medical devices, yesterday announced that it has signed an agreement to obtain Laser Industries of Tel Aviv through a share allocation.

The deal, which will take another four to five months to complete, will result in the world's largest medical and aesthetic laser company, said Mannie Olswang, CFO of Laser Industries.

"We saw this as an example of one and one making three," Olswang said. "The two companies together can create a better, more efficient company with more applications."

ESC makes light-based systems for non-

invasive treatment of cosmetic disorders, such as the treatment of varicose veins and hair removal.

Laser Industries' devices are used for aesthetic and surgical purposes, but the company's main focus is on medical applications.

Although the companies could not reveal the exact size of the deal before informing the Nasdaq Stock Exchange of their agreement - a procedure which is expected to take place today - ESC's corporate controller Ra'anun Yehieli said Laser Industries' stockholders will receive seven million shares in ESC.

In exchange, ESC will gain full control of Laser.

On Friday, ESC's shares closed at \$42.

Laser Industries closed with a market valuation of \$191.6 million.

"ESC will take charge of Laser Industries, but Laser Industries will continue to operate as usual," Yehieli said.

The deal reflects ESC's strategy of acquiring other companies in order to broaden its product line.

In March, ESC bought Luxar Corp., an American maker of surgical cosmetic lasers.

The company said it will continue to shop for other strategic purchases.

ESC will take over Laser Industries immediately, but "it will take time to integrate the functions" of the two companies, Yehieli said.

Following the announcement of the deal

today, the companies will still need to draw up a prospectus and get shareholder approval. The deal will also have to be brought to the courts here, since Israeli companies law does not account for share swaps, Olswang said.

ESC is one of the country's most celebrated high-tech companies. Since the beginning of the year its share price has jumped more than 60%.

ESC Medical's third quarter net income leaped to \$8.1m. from \$5.3m. the previous year. Revenues climbed to \$30m. from \$17.4m. in the same period last year.

Laser Industries reported third-quarter earnings of \$2.9m, a 26% rise from the same period last year. Sales increased 45% to \$21.2m.

Tadiran wins \$20m. IDF contract

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Tadiran Electronics Systems, a subsidiary of Tadiran, said yesterday it received a \$20 million contract to equip the IDF with electronic warfare systems.

Shmuel Kidron, president and CEO of Tadiran Electronic Systems, said in a statement that "the company's electronic warfare

systems are the most advanced in the field in intercepting and jamming enemy communications."

The company will supply the equipment during the next three to four years. Jacob Siem, the company's vice president for marketing and sales, said similar systems were sold to a Southeast Asian country.

Tadiran Electronics Systems

became an independent company at the beginning of the year following the implementation of a reorganization plan in Tadiran. The company has 350 workers and annual sales of \$67m.

Siem said that in the near future the company is expected to announce a larger deal to sell command control communications equipment to a foreign client.

He added that about one-third of the company's products are sold to the IDF, while the rest is exported.



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Israel Railways decries lack of funds

By SYBIL ENRICH

The government appears to be hoping the railway will die a natural death, Israel Railways director-general Amos Uzani claimed yesterday.

Speaking to members of the Knesset Economics Committee, Uzani said rail development is of necessity a long-term project - 10 or 20 years at least - but MKs are interested only in the four years of their term of office.

From a town-planning point of view, the greater Tel Aviv area is 20 years behind other cities, explained a company official. Even Cairo invests more in its subway. In a small, crowded country such as this, railways should be a public service like hospitals and schools.

Committee chairman Avi Yehzekel (Labor) said railway workers should lobby the Knesset for funds.

Abdul Malik Dahamshe (Democratic Arab Party) pointed out that in 50 years of Israel Railways, there has been not one passenger fatality.

PORTS AND RAILWAYS AUTHORITY ISRAEL RAILWAYS

Tender No. MS/423-97
RENOVATION OF ARMATURE ASSEMBLIES FOR D32 GENERATOR FOR I.R. LOCOMOTIVE ANNUAL SUPPLY

- The Israel Ports and Railways Authority - Israel Railways (hereinafter: "PRA") invites bids for renovation of armature for D32 Generator for Israel Railways Locomotives. Estimated annual renovation of armature assemblies for D32 Generator is 4 pieces. However, PRA reserves the right, at its discretion, to renovate all the aforesaid quantity or any part thereof.
- PRA reserves the option for the renovation of additional annual quantity as above at the same price and payment terms for a period of two additional years (three years in total).
- The mandatory conditions for participation in the Tender:
 - The offer must conform to specifications M-32/92 Rev. B (attached to the Tender documents).
 - The plant conducting the overhaul must prove its experience in the range of armatures renovation for at least 3 years.
- The Tender documents may be obtained in the Purchasing and Stores Department - purchase section, located on the Haifa Bay shore at Vulkan Junction, Haroshet St., upon payment of 585 NIS including VAT (non-refundable). Telephone for information on acquisition of the Tender forms is 972-4-8564251 daily except Fri., Sat., holiday eves and holidays from 07.00 - 15.30.
- All interested in participation in the Tender should submit their bids in writing (Hebrew or English) enclosing all the required documents in a sealed envelope with the Tender reference number inscribed on it, which should be enclosed in an envelope provided by us with the Tender documents attached, not later than December 10, 1997 at 09.00 a.m. to Tender Box No. 2 at Haifa East Station, Financial Dept. Building.
- The PRA makes no commitments to accept the lowest priced bid or any other bid. The PRA reserves the right to choose several acceptable bids by splitting the purchase between them or to choose any part of the bid.

PORTS AND RAILWAYS AUTHORITY ISRAEL RAILWAYS

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RENOVATION OF TRACTION MOTOR ARMATURE D-77 ON UNIT EXCHANGE BASIS ("UTEX") ANNUAL SUPPLY

The Israel Ports and Railways Authority - Israel Railways (hereinafter: "PRA") invites bids for renovation of traction motor armature D-77 on Unit Exchange Basis ("UTEX")

- Estimated annual renovation of traction motor armatures D-77 is 24 pieces. NOTE: Traction motor armature D-78 is also acceptable at the same price. However, PRA reserves the right, at its discretion, to renovate all the aforesaid quantity or any part thereof.
- PRA reserves the option to purchase additional annual quantity as above at the same price and payment terms for a period of two additional years (three years in total).
- The mandatory conditions for participation in the Tender:
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Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists various small capitalization stocks and their performance.

Main table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists a wide range of stocks and their performance.

Main table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists a wide range of stocks and their performance.

Tel Aviv follows world markets lower

Local stocks dropped yesterday after world stock markets from Japan to New York declined during the weekend. Israeli issues traded on Wall Street were caught up in the selling.

US House passes tax breaks for financial companies

Republicans after the president used his line-item veto on an earlier version of the measure, saying it was excessive.

Tel Aviv shares data supplied by Pacific Mediterranean Investments, Tel. 09-958-5873.

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists Tel Aviv shares and their performance.

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Table with columns: Currency, Rate. Lists various currencies and their exchange rates.

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ANALYSIS By Sarah Hadley

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SOLUTIONS: Crossword puzzle grid with solutions for the cryptic crossword. Includes 'Yesterday's Quick Solution' and 'Down' clues.

QUICK CROSSWORD: 1 Edifice (8), 7 Sense (5), 9 Nothing (3), 10 Girl's name (4), etc.

TV CHANNEL 1: 6:30 News flash, 6:31 News in Arabic, 6:45 Good Morning Israel. CHANNEL 2: 8:00 Altheiland and Herz's Vision, 8:30 Dishes Moi Tour, 9:00 Reading.

CABLE: Broadcasts begin after coverage of Knesset sitting ends 18:30. ETV 2 (23): 15:30 Echo Point, 16:00 Wonder Why, 16:30 Science.

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